

WEEK IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Republicans in Control.

WITH a majority so overwhelming that the possibility of successful opposition to their policies is almost inconceivable, the Republicans in the House opened the Sixty-seventh Congress in complete control.

During the previous week, the Committee on Committees worked three days in lining up committee assignments and in perfecting the organization. Its recommendations were ratified on the opening day and the organization completed without a hitch.

The steering committee was increased from five to seven and Representatives Sydney Anderson, of Minnesota, and John I. Nolan, of California, named to fill the two additional places. Anderson was chosen as a recognition of the Progressive element in the party and Nolan was picked as a labor man.

A vacancy on the steering committee, caused by the declination of Representative Winslow, of Massachusetts, to be re-elected, was filled by the appointment of Frank L. Greene, of Vermont.

The Democrats elected Claude Kitchin as minority leader and approved the suggestion of Kitchin that Representative Finis Garrett, of Tennessee, should "sub" for him during his absence. Kitchin picked Representative William A. Oldfield, of Arkansas, as Democratic whip and John C. Box, of Texas, as junior whip. These men were chosen for their irreconcilable attitude in opposition to the emergency tariff.

At a caucus on Wednesday, the Democrats voted virtually unanimously to oppose with all their power the emergency tariff bill, which was reported from the Ways and Means Committee on that day.

Debate on Tariff.

On Thursday the tariff measure was brought in and the day was spent in speech-making, the Democrats making a vigorous although futile fight against the measure, knowing that it was scheduled for passage on the following day.

With an exportation exceeding many times the importation, the Democrats charged that a tariff on agricultural products could not possibly help the farmers but that instead it would put money in the pockets of the big interests.

The Democrats had not yet made their committee assignments up to Friday morning and the organization of committees where the important work of Congress is done, has consequently been temporarily delayed.

During the first four days nearly 4,000 public and private bills and resolutions were introduced. A great many of these were hang-overs from the previous Congress which were not reached prior to adjournment. Others introduced absolutely new subject matter.

Among the measures reintroduced were the army and navy appropriation bills, which met with a pocket veto at the hands of former President Wilson.

The packer regulation bill, which passed the Senate last session but was held back in the House, was reintroduced. The national budget bill which was vetoed by President Wilson last June also was reintroduced and has been placed on the Republican program for quick action this session. The soldier bonus bill, which passed the House and failed in the Senate during the early part of 1920, was reintroduced by Chairman Fordney of the Ways and Means Committee.

By far the largest number of bills introduced so far provide for the erection of public buildings and the distribution of captured German cannon throughout the districts of the various members of Congress.

No omnibus public buildings bill has gone through Congress for several years. It was stopped during the war in order to concentrate on war work. Last year, because of the condition of the Federal Treasury, the measure was not reported from committee after an agreement said to have been made by the leaders that if the members would consent to forego a buildings bill, that two would be given this year in districts where only one was contemplated before.

Senate Works With Vim.

BEFORE the Sixty-seventh Congress was a week old the Senate had practically disposed of the Colombian treaty, the immediate demand for action on the international question, and the confirmations of President Harding's many appointees.

On the second day (Tuesday) 573 bills were introduced, and more than 200 were introduced on Wednesday, the second batch including the Knox resolution, providing for a separate peace with Germany, based practically on the Versailles treaty terms, but without the covenant of nations.

The message of President Harding, delivered before the Senate and House in joint session Tuesday afternoon, struck a harmonious chord in the Senate, where the program it virtually enunciated was well under way in reference to tax, tariff, revenue and other domestic as well as foreign subjects.

When the Democrats attacked the Republican efforts to enlarge the major committees, of which there

HARDING TOLD CONGRESS IS IN SESSION



Photo by Underwood and Underwood.

President Harding was officially informed of the opening of the Sixty-seventh Congress Monday by a Congressional committee, composed of (left to right) Senators Gull M. Hitchcock, Henry Cabot Lodge, Representatives Jose W. Fordney, Frank W. Mondell, and David S. Barry, sergeant-at-arms of the Senate; and Joseph Rogers, sergeant-at-arms of the House.

are fifteen, so as to make places for the new members of the Senate, Republicans, of course, an old-time party fight was waged, which continued for several days. Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, minority leader in the absence of Senator Underwood of Alabama, charged violation of precedence and unfairness. Senators Williams, Harrison, Swanson and others of his Democratic colleagues asserted that no appeal to the majority's sense of fairness was expected to produce results, but was intended merely as a protest for the records. Senator McCumber and other Republicans pointed out the fact that according to the representation of fifty-nine Republicans and thirty-seven Democrats would entitle the majority to ten members to six on the committees, as asked.

Bills providing for reclassification and government changes in the interest of efficiency were introduced by Senators Thomas, Sterling of South Dakota, Reed Smoot and others, while many bills of District of Columbia interest were presented, one providing for a \$5,000 survey, looking to the establishment of a parkway linking the dozen or more old civil war forts in and around Washington; another providing for the purchase or erection of a residence for the Vice President; one which proposes to curb the carrying of firearms by criminals; another for the construction of the Lincoln and Lee bridge across the Potomac between Washington and Arlington, one for the merger of the street car lines, and several pertaining to the widening of streets or other matters.

A bill by Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas proposes the re-establishment of the 50-50 basis of fiscal relations between the Federal and District governments.

Pass Tariff Measure.

THE emergency tariff bill was adopted Friday after two days of vigorous partisan debate which was characterized by defections from both sides. Five Texas Democrats lined up in favor of the bill and spoke for it, but John Garner, recognized leader of the Texas delegation was back on the Democratic reservation, after having voted for the tariff bill when it was before the House last March.

The Democratic deserters were offset by an equal number of Republicans, mostly from the New England section, who voted against the bill.

The House adjourned over until Monday because of the failure of the Democrats to complete their committee assignments. Without the Democrats, the committees were unable to organize and therefore could put no business before the House.

The Committee on Immigration and Naturalization is expected to bring in an immigration measure shortly after convening Monday.

Farm Aid Discussed.

The farming industry is the only one not adequately represented in Washington, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace told delegates to the convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington last week. He advocated that the agriculturists make plans to bring their needs before Congress through the federation men stationed in the Capital.

Parties Split on Treaty.

PICTURESQUE scenes marked the Colombian treaty debate which occupied three days in the Senate last week, with forensic heavy-weights of the Republican and Democratic parties in action. The fight over whether this country should indemnify the Isthmian nation to the extent of \$25,000,000 for its loss of Panama was drawing to a close Friday evening with galleries crowded.

Senator Lodge, Republican leader, and Senator Knox who was Secretary of State in the Roosevelt and Taft Cabinets, defended the treaty and President Harding's plea for its ratification as a moral obligation and a matter of justice. Senator Pomerene, of Ohio, Democrat, contended that we owe reparation to the country that was disrupted by our acquisition of the canal rights and in the sight of God and the world we cannot evade our plain responsibility. He read numerous papers tending to show that the revolution which resulted in Panama's secession from Colombia was fomented through American activities.

On the other hand, Senators Borah, Johnson, Lenroot and Kellogg, Republicans, and Watson, of Georgia, Democrat, declared our payment to Colombia of \$25,000,000 would be an admission of guilt, that the revolution was not of American making, and that Colombia was merely blackmailing Uncle Sam, the end of which nefarious practice would not be the \$25,000,000 payment. Senator Watson charged the Republicans with changing front, insulting the memory of Roosevelt who was chiefly responsible for the negotiations and with playing into the hands of the Standard Oil interests who were seeking concessions on the isthmus.

Senator Curtis, of Kansas is said to have informed President Harding that the treaty would be ratified by the two-thirds vote required with at least four votes to spare.

Haywood Case Decided.

REFUSAL of the United States Supreme Court to review the cases of William D. Haywood and seventy-five other member of the I. W. W., sentenced to long prison terms for obstructing the prosecution of the war, means the defendants must serve their sentences unless pardoned.

In the suit of Oklahoma for jurisdiction over valuable Red River oil lands, valued in scores of millions of dollars, the south bank of the river was fixed as the boundary line, thus upholding the contention of the State of Oklahoma against that of the State of Texas.

In four separate cases it was decided by the Supreme Court that a municipality may not enforce "confiscatory" public utility rates, even when a maximum is set by franchise or contract provisions. "Although the governmental agency having authority to deal with the subject may fix and enforce reasonable rates to be paid public utility corporations," said the court, "that power does not include the right to fix rates which are so low as to be confiscatory of the property of such corporation." Power companies in Iowa and Texas were the litigants and beneficiaries.

The decisions were among a number handed down last Monday.